

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 3-4-58
13 September 1952

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Conditions in Paoshan Hsien, Yunnan

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[REDACTED] Comment. This information is presented mainly for its use as
background material.

Regular and Irregular Military Forces

1. In August and September 1951 the Chinese Communist 41 Division was stationed in Paoshan (99-09, 25-07) Hsien with headquarters at the Ch'eng Nan Primary School. One guard company, one signal company, one artillery company, and one engineer company were directly attached to 41 Division headquarters. The troops resided in civilian homes. Although they were receiving very little training and had nothing to do, they were permitted to take only one or two hours leave per week. Families of the soldiers lived in a group in Kunming; soldiers in the front area could take one week of leave per year, exclusive of travel time, to visit their families in Kunming. The living of soldiers and their families was supplied by the government, and soldiers were not permitted to send money to their families. Soldiers at the front who had money were making secret purchases of necklaces and American dollars.
2. All soldiers wore tan uniforms left in China by the Nationalists and each soldier had leather and canvas shoes and a grey blanket. Wounded and sick soldiers were supplied special bedding. Beds, bedding, chairs, and tables, borrowed from civilians by the army's special borrowing team, were returned when they were no longer needed to their original owners. Military personnel were entitled to food according to the following scale: generals and wounded soldiers were entitled to meals classified as "small pan A," officers below the rank of general were entitled to meals classified as "small pan B," and soldiers were entitled to meals classified as "large pan," which consisted of 30 liang¹ of rice per person per day in addition to oil, salt, and fuel. Some money was also supplied with which to buy vegetables. Food was abundant only for the army, and the civilians were starving.

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3. Most soldiers above the rank of squad commander were members of the Communist Party. The behavior of the soldiers toward the people in Paoshan was very good when they first arrived and the people welcomed them. Since then, however, the soldiers have looted the people, disregarding their lives and property. Consequently, the people have turned against them.
4. In January 1951 a guard regiment headquarters was established in Paoshan Hsien with authority equal to that of the hsien government. The regiment commander was a regular army officer. A guard company consisting of from 60 to 100 soldiers was stationed in each of the hsien's ten ch'u. The soldiers for these units were selected from volunteers from the villages in the hsien, and because of the difficulties in making a living, many young men volunteered. Prior to being accepted, a volunteer had to pass a physical examination, secure the approval of all members of his family, and produce five guarantors. In an emergency the Chinese Communists could recruit troops from these local units.
5. Young men from village farm families were assigned to guard roads at night. Two persons were assigned to duty each night. They did their regular work in the day. The government did not pay them anything for their services and furnished them with swords and spears originally owed by the village. In an emergency these guards could be placed under the command of the guard regiment or the regular army. When this happened, they were furnished uniforms and weapons on a temporary basis and were indistinguishable from regular army troops. There were 20,000 militiamen in Paoshan Hsien.

Security Controls

6. There was a public security bureau in Paoshan which performed both judiciary special services and police services and resembled the former Japanese special operations organization in China. Although it was nominally under the hsien government, it was actually under the direct control of the provincial public security department in Kunming. Employees of the bureau were all special operators. The bureau set up a special unit to organize public peace maintenance units in all streets and market places. These units were comprised mostly of vagrants, poor people, and radical² people. In rural areas members of the Boys' Vanguard Unit, the Women's Association, and the Farmers' Association were assigned the tasks of performing guard duties and preserving the peace. Persons engaged in maintaining peace were not well armed.
7. People were not permitted to travel outside of the Paoshan district. Travel permits were required for travel inside Paoshan Hsien and were issued by the ch'u offices. Many ch'u officers were negligent and left travel permit forms and stamps around in the office so that they were easy to steal. The printed forms and the stamps were so crude that there was no way to distinguish between the real and the imitation. Not many Communist soldiers could read, and it was easy to pass them at guard points using forms which were not filled in correctly.
8. There were telephones between the hsien and ch'u offices in Paoshan Hsien. They could be used only by the hsien magistrate, ch'u chief, hsien Communist Party secretary, ch'u Communist Party secretary, and military authorities. The telephones formerly installed in the hsien and pao offices and private telephones have all been removed.

Communist Party Organization

9. The local organization of the Communist Party in Paoshan Hsien consisted of a committee for each hsien and a ch'u cell for each ts'um. To join the Communist Party or the Communist-sponsored New Democratic Youth Corps, as a full member, it was necessary to undergo a six-month period as a candidate member and another six-month test period. Only full party members could hold government positions above the rank of head of a ch'u government. The organization of the Communist Party and the New Democratic Youth Corps was kept secret, as well as the names of members of these organizations.

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Government Organization and Administration

10. The Yunnan provincial government was organized according to the following hierarchy: provincial government, special administrative office, hsien government, ch'u office, administrative ts'un consisting of 300 houses, farmers' association of an autonomous ts'un consisting of 100 houses, and li consisting of about ten houses. The administrative ts'un offices controlled some autonomous ts'un. The autonomous ts'un organized farmers' associations. Each ts'un had a certain number of li chiefs who were identical to the pao chia chiefs under the Nationalist government. Ostensibly the ts'un administration was controlled by those of poor farmer origin but actually it was completely controlled by Communist Party cells. Since personnel of ts'un and lower level offices were natives they often dealt kindly with the ordinary people at the risk of offending their superiors. Thus, the people had some freedom. The most distinguishing merit of the Communist government administration was the use of social organizations, teachers, and students to help in the administration.]

1. [REDACTED] Comment. A liang is equivalent to 37.8 grams.
2. [REDACTED] Comment. Source used the word "radical" but it is likely he means Communist.

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